

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297844

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL NATO

SUBJECT: EWG MEETING: SPRING DEFENSE REVIEW

REFS: (A) USNATO 6518 DTG 281430Z NOV, (B) STATE 278388

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HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETINGS AT REGIONAL LOCATIONS IN LATE WINTER OR EARLY SPRING AS APPROPRIATE; IN ORDER TO PERMIT SENIOR NATIONAL OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS TO GET FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON REGIONAL PROBLEMS. WE SEE THESE REGIONAL MEETINGS  
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AT REGIONAL LOCATIONS AS ESSENTIAL PRELIMINARIES TO A WELL

ROUNDED ANNUAL SPRING REVIEW (AT NATO HEADQUARTERS) OF NATO SUPPORTING PROGRAMS WITH RELATED REPORT TO MINISTERS.

2. PRECEDENT EXISTS IN MEETING OF DEFENSE MINISTERS OF FRG UK, NETHERLANDS AND DEF. MIN REPRESENTATIVE FOR BELGIUM AT NORTHAG IN 1969. WE UNDERSTAND SEC GEN, SACEUR AND CINCENT WERE PRESENT, BUT EMPHASIS WAS ON NORTHAG CAPABILITIES AND PROBLEMS, GIVEN THE THEN-CURRENT NATIONAL FORCE COMMITMENTS AND RELATED NATIONAL PROGRAMS. DISCUSSION LED TO NATIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NETHERLANDS AND FRG TO FACILITATE FORWARD

DEPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN NETHERLAND UNITS INTO GERMANY. WE UNDERSTAND MEETING ALSO HAD VERY BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON MULTINATIONAL COOPERATION IN NORTHAG AND TWOATAF UNDER EUROGROUP. RESULTS OF 1969 MEETING WERE REPORTED TO DPC. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE BENEFITS WERE PRODUCED AND STILL CONTINUE WITHOUT ANY DEROGATION OF ESTABLISHED RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES OF NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES

3. WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT IN CONSIDERING REGIONAL PROBLEMS EWG NEED NECESSARILY ADOPT 1969 PATTERN. DESIGN FOR A SPRING REVIEW OF SUPPORTING PROGRAMS, AS SUPPORTED BY SEC GEN LUNS AND CHAIRMAN MC HILL-NORTON DURING DPC MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF FLEXIBILITY, SHOULD EMERGE FROM EWG DISCUSSION IN LIGHT OF CURRENT NEEDS AND ARRANGEMENTS. AND AS MISSION HAS INDICATED, INITIAL DECISION ON THE PRELIMINARY REGIONAL REVIEWS COULD WELL TAKE THE FORM OF A PILOT OR TRIAL REGIONAL REVIEW. WHILE WE WOULD PREFER A REGIONAL LOCATION, WE COULD ACCEPT SHAPE OR NATO HQS LOCATION INITIALLY.

4 WE WOULD HOPE THAT PILOT OR TRIAL REGIONAL REVIEW WOULD BE LOOKED ON IN FIRST INSTANCE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NATION CONCERNED IN THE DEFENSE OF A REGION TO COME TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DEFENSE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION, THE ROLES THAT THEIR NATIONAL FORCES PLAY, AND OF THE AREAS WHICH EXIST FOR BETTER COOPERATION.

5. AS INDICATED REFB, WE SEE ANNUAL SPRING REVIEW AT NATO HEADQUARTERS OF NATO SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AS USEFUL WAY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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REVIEWING AND RELATING PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS IN RATIONALIZATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN A SINGLE INTEGRATED REPORT FOR MINISTERS.

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